

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. – 11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method of constructing a filter for use in connection with an embolic protection device, the method comprising:

forming a first section of a filter material ~~having a thickness of less than 25 μ m~~ by masking a larger section of a filter material according to a predetermined pattern and removing the excess filter material outside of the predetermined pattern with at least one of a laser beam and a solvent, the first section having a first edge and a second edge;

contacting at least a portion of the first edge with at least a portion of the second edge;

bonding together the at least a portion of the first edge with at least a portion of the second edge, such that the first section is formed into a sack-like shape.

13. (Original) The method of constructing a filter as recited in claim 12, wherein forming a first section of the filter material comprises laser cutting a larger piece of the filter material according to a predetermined pattern to form the first section.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The method of constructing a filter as recited in claim 12, wherein contacting at least a portion of the first edge and the second edge further

comprises clamping at least a portion of the first edge and the second edge together using a clamping assembly.

16. (Original) The method of constructing a filter as recited in claim 15, wherein the clamping assembly comprises a first clamping surface and a second clamping surface.

17. (Original) The method of constructing a filter as recited in claim 16, wherein at least one of the first clamping surface and the second clamping surface includes a chamfered edge on the outer periphery thereof.

18. (Original) The method of constructing a filter as recited in claim 15, wherein the clamping assembly comprises a first blade and a second blade.

19. (Original) The method of constructing a filter as recited in claim 18, wherein at least one of the first blade and the second blade includes a chamfered edge.

20. (Original) The method of constructing a filter as recited in claim 12, wherein bonding together the at least a portion of the first edge with at least a portion of the second edge comprises contacting at least a portion of the first edge and at least a portion of the second edge with a bonding agent so as to form a bond between the first edge and the second edge.

21. (Original) The method of constructing a filter as recited in claim 12, wherein bonding together the at least a portion of the first edge with the at least a portion of the second edge comprises contacting at least a portion of the first edge and the second edge with sufficient heat so as to form a bond between the first edge and the second edge.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of constructing a filter for use in connection with an embolic protection device, the method comprising:

forming a first section and a second section of a filter material by masking a larger section of a filter material according to a predetermined pattern and removing the excess filter material outside of the predetermined pattern with at least one of a laser beam and a solvent, each section having a thickness of less than 25 μ m, the first section and the second section each having a first edge and a second edge;

contacting at least a portion of the first edge of the first section and the first edge of the second section;

contacting at least a portion of the second edge of the first section and the second edge of the second section;

bonding together at least a portion of the first edges and the second edges, such that the first section and second section are formed into a sack-like shape.

23. (Original) The method of constructing a filter as recited in claim 22, wherein forming the first section and second section of filter material comprises laser cutting a larger piece of filter material according to a predetermined pattern.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) The method of constructing a filter as recited in claim 22, wherein overlapping at least a portion of the first edge of the first section and the first edge of the second section further comprises clamping at least a portion of the first edge of the first section and the first edge of the second section together using a clamping assembly.

26. (Original) The method of constructing a filter as recited in claim 25, wherein the clamping assembly comprises a first clamping surface and a second clamping surface.

27. (Original) The method of constructing a filter as recited in claim 25, wherein at least one of the first clamping surface and the second clamping surface includes a chamfered edge on the outer periphery thereof.

28. (Original) The method of constructing a filter as recited in claim 25, wherein the clamping assembly comprises a first blade and a second blade.

29. (Original) The method of constructing a filter as recited in claim 28, wherein at least one of the first blade and the second blade includes a chamfered end.

30. (Original) The method of constructing a filter as recited in claim 22, wherein bonding together at least a portion of the overlapped first edges of the first section and second section comprises contacting at least a portion of the overlapped first edges with a bonding agent so as to form a bond between the first edges.

31. (Original) The method of constructing a filter as recited in claim 22, wherein bonding together at least a portion of the overlapped first edges of the first section and second section comprises contacting at least a portion of the overlapped first edges with sufficient heat so as to form a bond between the first edges.

32. -- 47. (Canceled)